

Iowa Council on Homelessness  
Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2006

Voting Members Present:

Allan Axeen – HACAP	Gordon Miller – Department of Public Safety
Virginia Beane – Attorney General’s Office	Patrick Nestvedt – Catholic Charities
Bill Brand – Department of Human Rights	Kate Ridge – John Lewis Coffee Shop
Anne Brown – Department of Corrections	Steffani Simbric – Cedar Valley Friends of the Family
Christine Canganelli – Shelter House	Judy Songer – SIEDA Community Action
Dennis Dietz – Iowa Finance Authority	Kevin Squires
Kelli Foltz – Department of Veteran Affairs	Janell Staats – MATURA Action Corporation
Diane Foss – Dept. of Economic Development	Nicki Stajcar – Department of Elder Affairs
Jeff Gronstal – Department of Public Health	Lila P.M. Starr – Department of Human Services
Bill Holvoet – Community Action of SE Iowa	Bob Steben – Department of Veteran Affairs
Doug Keast – Dept of Workforce Development	Donald Tyne – Linn County Veteran’s Affairs
Anne Kinsel – Selzer & Company	Dean Wright – Drake University
Amy Knudsen – Iowa Coalition for Housing & Homeless	

Voting Members Absent:

Mario Hayslett – Criminal Justice Ministries	Alice Mollett – Crossroads Women’s Shelter
Ann Hearn – Linn County Community Services	Ray Morley – Department of Education

Others Present:

Krista Bowersox – US Dept of HUD	Lisa – Youth and Shelter Services
Bill Brown – Dept of Human Rights	Jenny Manders – Project Concern
Elaine Ditzler – Iowa Policy Project	Aaron McKay – Senator Grassley’s Office
David Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Jim McWeeny – Youth and Shelter Services
Julie Eberbach – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances	Dave Muetherthies – Black Hawk Mental Health Center
Deb Forester – Hillcrest Family Services	Roberta Milinsky – Youth & Shelter Services
Sister Charla – DVP	Eileen Mitchell – Iowa Institute for Community Alliances
Eddie Frazier – Primary Healthcare	Tim Neal – YMCA
Barry Gallagher – Vera French Mental Health Center	Loyd Ogle – Iowa Finance Authority
Linda Grothwohl – Iowa Legal Aid	Matt Otte – Community Mental Health PATH Program
Erica Haven – Project Concern	Carrie Slagle – Waypoint/Madge Phillips Center
Erin Hericks – Broadlawns Medical Center	Tony Smithart – Department of Labor
Kyle Hertsler – Linn County Community Services	Paul Stanfield – Home Connection
David Hicks – Youth & Shelter Services	Cara Stevenson –
Sister Carole Karwoski – Opening Doors	Joey Van Zomoren – Northern Lights Homeless Shelter
Cheryl Kimball – Youth & Shelter Services	Mike Wood – Mental Health Association of Siouxland
Joe Leto – Abbey Center for Community Mental Health	

Iowa Finance Authority Staff:

Lyle Schwery – Homeless Programs Coordinator	Karen Winchester – Administrative Assistant
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### **Call to Order & Introduction**

Chairman Wright called the January 20, 2006 meeting of the Iowa Council for Homelessness to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum was established.

Introductions were made by those present at the host site and at the remote ICN locations.

### **Approvals**

#### **January 20, 2006 Agenda**

Chairman Wright introduced the agenda for the January 20, 2006 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Anne Brown, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved the January 20, 2006 Council meeting agenda.

#### **November 18, 2005 Minutes**

Chairman Wright introduced the minutes for the November 18, 2005 meeting.

Motion: On a motion by Bill Holvoet, seconded by Nicki Stajcar, the Council unanimously approved the November 18, 2005 Council meeting minutes.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Dean Wright, Chair of the Executive Committee, reported the Committee has been meeting with the other Committees and does not have anything specific to report.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Lila Starr, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported there has been a resignation submitted to the Council. A nomination process will be initiated soon.

Kevin Squires was welcomed to the Council.

### **Continuum of Care Committee Report**

Amy Knudsen, Chair of the Continuum of Care Committee, reported the Continuum of Care Awards were announced in mid-December. The Balance of State Application was funded in its entirety at \$4.465 million.

The APR Project Renewal Funding Sheet was dispersed to the grantees. This is how each project that receives funds from the CoC grant is reviewed. Several questions about this scoring sheet have been resolved.

Lloyd Ogle asked about the results of the other CoC grant applications from around the state. Amy Knudsen and Jim McWeeny stated Sioux City and Des Moines would know more after their de-briefings with HUD.

Lyle Schwery informed the Council he learned in Washington DC last week that the Continuum of Care Grant Application is the largest and most complex competitive application in the federal government.

### **Policy and Public Awareness Committee Report**

Christine Canganelli, Chair of the Policy and Public Awareness Committee, reported to the Council that several people met January 12 & 13, 2006 for a Policy Academy to rework the Plan to End Homelessness in Iowa.

Chairman Wright read a short summary of the work from this policy academy.

Chairman Wright was given the task to create an Ad Hoc Committee to complete this update to the Plan to End Homelessness in Iowa with the following results: Dean Wright, Al Axeen, Christine Canganelli, Diane Foss, Julie Eberbach, and Lyle Schwery. The mission of this Committee is to use the work of the recent public policy academy workshop and the 2005 Statewide Homeless Study to create a final version of the 2006 Plan to Address Homelessness and to create an Action Plan which will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. The Action Plan is intended to guide the work of the Council. Once these tasks have been completed, the process will be started to make this group a standing Committee of this Council. Chairman Wright is asking this ad hoc Committee to come back at the March meeting with a draft of the final document to be presented to the Council for its approval.

### **Research and Analysis Committee Report**

Al Axeen, Chair of the Research and Analysis Committee, reported the Committee met to discuss several topics.

Motion: On a motion by Al Axeen, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved having a second statewide Point-in-Time Survey taken on July 26, 2006 using the same individual and family documents that were used for the January Point-in-Time Survey.

Motion: On a motion by Al Axeen, seconded by Amy Knudsen, the Council unanimously accepted the 2005 Iowa Statewide Homeless Study and to take its recommendations under advisement.

Elaine Ditzler with the Iowa Policy Project was available for questions on the 2005 Iowa Statewide Homeless Study.

Lila Starr reminded the Council of the second part of the Homeless Study that will be conducted later this year concerning mental health issues.

### **HMIS Committee Report**

Dave Eberbach showed the Council a presentation of the 'new' ServicePoint system, I-Count Network.

Mr. Eberbach reminded Council members to communicate with fellow co-workers about the products (ServicePoint) that are already available to alleviate the problem of having several non-compatible information systems around the state.

Julie Eberbach informed the Council of several federal changes to the Violence Against Women Act concerning information collection. There is a provision that instructs domestic violence providers that they are prohibited from entering personal identifying information into Homeless Management Information Systems. The loss of this data could greatly affect the State of Iowa's homeless numbers. Iowa would lose approximately 28-30% of its homeless population according to HMIS information which would directly affect the state's ability to qualify for housing/support dollars. Shelters currently have the option to enter unanimous information for collection purposes only.

Amy Knudsen suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee or another existing Committee along with the Institute study the impact that this loss of data could have on homeless and domestic violence service providers around the state. Dave Eberbach also asked the Council to create an Ad Hoc Committee to look at this issue.

Chairman Wright asked for volunteers to create an Ad Hoc Committee to come to a solution to this issue. He will create an Ad Hoc Committee, including a mission and expected turn-around times before the next Council meeting.

Lyle Schwery reported to the Council that HUD has asked each CoC jurisdiction to appoint a Katrina Assistance Agency (KAA) to deal with evacuees who were homeless or near homeless prior to Katrina. Mr. Schwery is asking the Council to appoint the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances as that agency. The Institute's role would be to assist agencies in accessing HUD dollars to make assessments and provide services to evacuees who were homeless or in HUD special needs housing prior to Katrina.

Motion: On a motion by Anne Kinsel, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously designated the Iowa Institute for Community Alliances to be the Balance of State Continuum of Care's Katrina Assistance Agency.

### **Reports & Activities**

Lyle Schwery reminded the Council that the first draft of the Continuum of Care Exhibit 1 is due by March 1, 2006. The Point-in-Time Study will take place January 25, 2006. Homeless Assistance Program Applications (ESG/HSOG) are in the process of being reviewed. Mr. Schwery suggested looking at IFA's website for a variety of information including forms and study results. [www.ifahome.com](http://www.ifahome.com)

Tony Smithart informed the Council the Department of Labor will be issuing a grant application for homeless veterans around May. More information on this grant can be found on the Department of Labor's website.

Amy Knudsen informed the Council of several upcoming events: Logic Model Training for the CoC Application in the IDED meeting room on February 15, 2006, 9am-12pm; State Housing Trust Fund Awareness Day at the Capitol, Room 116 on January 26, 2006, 11am-2:30pm; and a Just Cause & Mobile Home Parks Rally in the Rotunda at the Capital on February 2, 2006.

### **Old Business**

There was no 'old business' to be discussed.

### **New Business**

There was no 'new business' to be discussed.

### **Next Meeting Date**

Chairman Wright reminded members of the next Council meeting date, Friday, March 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

Motion: On a motion by Jeff Gronstal, seconded by Diane Foss, the Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Council meeting at 11:50 am.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2006,

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Karen Winchester, Administrative Assistant  
Iowa Finance Authority

Doug Keast, Secretary  
Iowa Council on Homelessness